Purchase of Gunny Bags by FCI

1084. SHRI AMAR SINGH: will the Minister FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFARIS be pleased to state;

(a) Whether Government are awere that Food Corporation of India (FCI) had purchased gunny bags to the extant of 30.000 bales in 1997-98 of sub-standard quality of 750 per gram as against the 1029 gram per bag at a higher rate in comparison to the market rate on three days tender notice;

(b) if so, the reasons for purchasing the gunny bags with such a short notice; and

(c) how many qunny bags have been purchased and used till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) In October, 1997 Food Corporation of India purchased 27,161 gunny bales at a price of Rs. 12.81 per bag from the open market on competitive tender basis. Usually in private commercial transaction jute bags weighing 1020 grams are not used, and hence the weight of the bag was reduced to 907 grams per bag in the specifications. The supplies received were as per the specifications, and in case of 501 gunny bales found below specifications, payments have been withheld. The rates settled were not higher than the market rates.

(b) The estimated procurement of paddy by Food Corporation of India in Punjab in the Kharif Marketing Season 1997-98 was 18 lakh tonnes. Indents for 97,000 gunny bales were accordingly placed with DGS&D, Calcutta. Against these indents. 53,000 gunny bales only had been despatched by DGS&D by 4.10.97. However the actual procurement of paddy by Food Corporation of India amounted to 28.74 lakh tonnes as against 17.18 lakh tonnes in the previous year. In view of the heavy arrivals of paddy and the slow despatch of gunnies from Calcutta, Food Corporation of India had to float a short term tender for purchase of 30,000 gunny bales.

(c) 27,161 gunny bales were puchased and these were utilised in full.

Rampant Corrupation in Super Bazar

1085. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONCUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) Whether it is a fact that the rates of suppliers to the Super Bazar are higher than the rates at which the Kendriya Bhandar gets the same items through the same supplier or through other suppliers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to get the matter investigated from the Vigilance wing of the Ministry or the CBI and to tame the suppliers and to eradicate the rampant corruption in the Super Bazar; and

(d) whether the suppliers who do not grease the palms of the employees of the Super Bazar are harassed, victimised and blacklisted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi they obtain their supplies of branded products from the manufacturers or their authorised distributors at rates applicable to the bulk purchasers. In respect of certain other items which the Super Bazar procure through their approved suppliers, they obtain an affidavit from their approved suppliers to the effect that the rates offered by them are the lowest and that the approved suppliers shall not offer lesser price to any other ogranisation without giving the benefit of reduction to the Super Bazar.

(c) The Super Bazar being a commercial organisation has a Vigilance Wing headed by a Chief Vigilance Officer. The Vigilance Wing in the Super Bazar functions as per the guidelines given in the Vigilance manual and the instructions issued by the Govt.and the Central Vigilance Commission from time to time.

(d) The Super Bazar, Delhi has informed that no such case has come to their notice so far.

Increase in the Issue Price of Rice and Wheat

1086. **SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:** will the Minister FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether issue price of rice and wheat has increased and if so, to what extent;

(b) whether the price of imported wheat is higher than domestic procurement; and

(c) whether the storage capacity is full with wheat and rice and the imported wheat is lying outside godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) (a) The Central Issue Price (CIPs) of rice and wheat have not been increased after 1.6.1997. However, CIPs of fine and superfine rice were readjusted consequent upon the merger of these two categories into one category i.e. Grade 'A'.

(b) The domestic procurement of wheat is made at the minimum support price/procurement price announced by the Government for each marketing season. The price of imported wheat is, however, dependent on the prices prevailing in the international market at the time of contracting. Since import of wheat is resorted to with the objective of meeting, the shortfall in estimated production, the prices of domestic wheat and imported wheat are not comparable.

(c) Imported wheat has not created any storage problems.

Procurement Price of Wheat

1087. **SHRI N.R. DASARI:**
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to raise the procurement price of wheat considering the increase in prices of inputs; and

(b) the procurement price last announced, the increase in the prices of inputs since then and the proposed procurement price.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government fixed the minimum support price (MSP) of wheat at Rs. 455 per quintal for 1997-98 crop to be marketed in 1998-99 on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural costs and prices (CACP), views of State Governments and concerned Central Ministries and other relevant factors. The CACP takes into account the cost of imputs and other relevant factor for determining a remunerative price for wheat. Further, the Government have also announced a central bonus of Rs. 55 per quintal in additional to the minimum support prices of Rs. 465 per quintal for wheat procured during the period from Ist April, 1998 to 10 June, 1998 for Central Pool.

There is no proposal to increase the procurement price of wheat further.

Condition of Mortuary at Safdarjung Hospital

1088. **SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) wheher Government are aware of the horrible condition in the mortuary at the Safdarjung Hospital with the piling up of dead bodies due to inadequate space